



A new Convention on Automatic Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications

EQAR members Dialogue 2025, Brussels, 16 October 2025

Why a Convention?

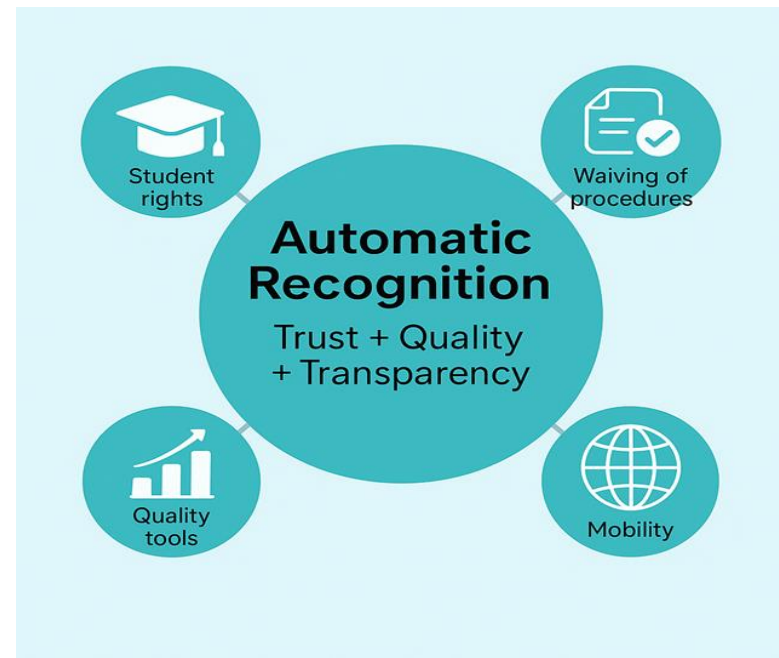
- Past instruments established important principles; the Convention represents the next step, giving binding force to shared commitments and ensuring more consistent application across Europe.
- Progress stalled due to lack of trust between systems.
- A binding convention provides legal certainty, mutual trust, and a common framework.

What it covers

- **Level** (generic) recognition: cycles (Bachelor, Master, Doctorate).
- Not admission: institutions may set entry requirements.
- Not professional recognition: excludes regulated professions.
- Not automatic recognition itself: focuses on **enabling conditions**

Core principles

- **Right of holders:** qualifications recognised abroad without new procedures.
- **Reciprocity:** mutual trust and legal guarantees.
- **Waiving of procedures:** removing unnecessary administrative steps for qualification holders.
- **Quality & transparency:** full use of Bologna tools.
- **Trust building:** integrity, academic freedom, shared QA in cross-border education.



Obligations of the States parties

- Implement the Bologna Tools (QF-EHEA, NQF, ECTS, Diploma supplement)
- Ratify & implement Lisbon Recognition Convention
- Apply ESG-Compliant Quality assurance (preferably EQAR)
- Guarantee academic freedom, integrity and governance values

The Goal

- Make automatic recognition a **legal reality** across Europe
- Facilitate student **mobility & international cooperation**
- Strengthen the European Higher Education Area with **binding commitments**
- **Reducing administrative barriers** for qualification holders



COUNCIL OF EUROPE CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

46 MEMBER STATES 46 ÉTATS MEMBRES

